	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	09/493,887	ETTNER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Maryam Monshipouri	1652
The MAILING DATE of this communication appeal All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIOF the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313	(OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this ap or other appropriate communication IGHTS. This application is subject t	plication. If not included n will be mailed in due course. THIS
1. This communication is responsive to		
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 30-47.		
3. \square The drawings filed on $___$ are accepted by the Examine	r.	
 4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority ur a) All b) Some* c) None of the: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * Certified copies not received: 	been received. been received in Application No	
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONN THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.		complying with the requirements
5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be subm INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which give		
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftspers 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Paper No./Mail Date Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1 each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the state of the property of th	on's Patent Drawing Review (PTO s Amendment / Comment or in the (.84(c)) should be written on the drawi	Office action of ngs in the front (not the back) of
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the depo- attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT	sit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL I FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGIC	must be submitted. Note the AL MATERIAL.
Attachment(s) 1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/0 Paper No./Mail Date 4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material	6. ⊠ Interview Summary Paper No./Mail Da 8), 7. ⊠ Examiner's Amenda	tè <u>4/22/04</u> .
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An **Examiner's Amendment** to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Dr. T. Gottlieb, on 4/22/04.

Examiner's Amendment to the Claims

Cancel claims 48-51.

The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

Claims 30-47 are drawn to a protein-containing hydrogel comprising a polyethylene glycol (PEG) matrix to which is bound one or more catalytically active polypeptides or proteins wherein, (a) the matrix comprises an activated diisocyanate-PEG polymer further comprising unblocked urea groups, (b) the one or more catalytically active polypeptides or proteins having free radical scavenging activity further comprising proteases, metalloproteases and hydrolases and (c) wherein said polypeptides or proteins are directely bound to said diisocyanate-PEG matrix via the unblocked urea groups, and a process for preparing said protein-containing hydrogel.

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Claimed hybrogel is free of porior art. Further, although the prior art suggests methods of preparing hydrogel containing gels comprising diisocyanate PEG bound to free radical scavenger proteins and their final products, said methods require the presence of albumin for gel matrix stability, rendering the instant invention, inherently lacking said albumin requirement non-obvious over the prior art.

Claims 30-47 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Maryam Monshipouri, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (703) 308-1083. The Examiner can normally be reached daily from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maryam Monshipouri whose telephone number is (571) 272-0932. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 a.m to 4:30 p.m. except for alternate Mondays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnanthapu Achutamurthy can be reached on (571) 272-0928. The fax

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phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Maryam Monshipouri Ph.D.

Primary Examiner